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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 ICA-11 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
HA-06 PA-01 SP-02 SPRS-02 /049 W  
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R 241155Z APR 81  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9282  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS  
USCINCLANT NORVA

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2975

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

EO 12065: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PRISONERS

## DECONTROL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Classify~~: ( ) In Part (X) In Full ~~DECONTROL~~

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE THERE ARE NOW JUST ABOUT 1,480 PEOPLE IN ARGENTINE JAILS ON OTHER THAN COMMON CRIMINAL CHARGES. THIS SOURCE HAS ALSO CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF AN ENUMERATION OF PEN PRISONERS PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AT THE END OF MARCH. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY, AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 989 PEN PRISONERS WHICH FELL INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

238 SERVING SENTENCES AFTER A TRIAL,  
135 UNDERGOING TRIAL, AND  
616 HELD UNDER PEN WITHOUT TRIAL OR CONVICTION.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PEN TOTAL AND THE TOTAL JAILED UNDER OTHER THAN COMMON CRIMINAL CHARGES IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY APPROXIMATELY 491 WHO ARE SERVING SENTENCES AFTER CONVICTION BUT ARE NOT UNDER PEN. (WHY SOME OF THESE SHOULD BE HELD UNDER PEN AND OTHER ARE NOT IS NOT CLEAR TO US, BUT IT HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING PRACTICE.)

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2. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER, A MENDOZA FEDERAL APPEALS COURT HAS ORDERED THE RELEASE FROM PREVENTIVE DETENTION OF TWO OFFICERS OF THE MENDOZA OFFICE OF COMMUNIST-RUN HUMAN RIGHTS

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ORGANIZATION, THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHT LEAGUE (LIGA). THEY WERE ARRESTED LAST YEAR ON CHARGES OF POSSESSION OF EXPLOSIVES WHICH WERE FOUND IN THE LIGA'S OFFICE. THIS CHARGE GAINED LITTLE CREDIBILITY GIVEN THE ARGENTINE COMMUNISTS' COMFORTABLE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOA AND ITS LONGSTANDING REJECTION OF VIOLENCE. THE DEFENDANTS ASSERTED THAT THE EXPLOSIVES HAD BEEN PLANTED IN THE LIGA'S OFFICE. THE COURT ORDERED THEM RELEASED ON THE GROUNDS THERE WAS NO PROOF THAT THE MATERIAL BELONGED TO THE DEFENDANTS. SHLAUDEMAN

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